

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Mark Maggenti *et al.*

Serial No. UNASSIGNED

Filed: February 8, 2002

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**For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
ENABLING GROUP
COMMUNICATION SERVICES IN
AN EXISTING COMMUNICATION
SYSTEM**

) Group No. UNASSIGNED

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following new claims 24-83:

24. (New) In a communications system, a method for forming a group communication, said method comprising:
- establishing a first channel with a first communication device;
 - establishing at least one second channel with at least one second communication device;
 - receiving packet data from said first communication device; and
 - sending said packet data to the at least one second communication device group.
25. (New) The method of Claim 24, wherein said establishing steps include: establishing at least one wireless communication channel.
26. (New) The method of Claim 24, further including: maintaining identification information for each of said first communication device and at least one second communication device.
27. (New) The method of Claim 26, further including: updating the maintained identification information when the identification information of said first communication device or said at least one second communication device has or is about to change.
28. (New) The method of Claim 24, further including: maintaining a history of activity between said first communication device and said at least one second communication device.
29. (New) The method of Claim 28, further including: transferring said history of activity to a billing log module.

30. (New) The method of Claim 24, wherein said receiving includes receiving at least one of identification data of first communication device and said at least one second communication device, location data of said first communication device and said at least one second communication device, and control data to establish, modify, or terminate said group communication.

31. (New) The method of Claim 24, wherein said establishing steps include: establishing a signal initiation protocol (SIP) channel, a media signaling channel, and a media traffic channel.

32. (New) The method of Claim 24, further including:
measuring a first elapsed time period during which none of said first communication device and said at least one second communication device has transmitted information; and
sending a message to said first communication device and said at least one second communication device to enter a dormant mode if said elapsed time exceeds a predetermined time period.

33. (New) The method of Claim 32, further including:
measuring a second elapsed time period during which none of said first communication device and said at least one second communication device has transmitted information; and

sending a message to a communication device that has not transmitted information to elicit a response from said communication device to determine if said communication device wishes to remain an active participant.

34. (New) The method of Claim 24, further including:
assigning a priority level to each of said first communications device and at least one second communications device such that a communication device having a higher priority level may interrupt another communication device having a lower priority level.

35. (New) The method of Claim 34, wherein said priority level is dynamically configurable.

36. (New) The method of Claim 24, further including:
storing said received packet data until said at least one second communication device is ready to receive said packet data.

37. (New) The method of Claim 24, further including:
sending information to said first communication device regarding said at least one second communication device.

38. (New) The method of Claim 24, wherein said sending includes:
sending said packet data to said at least one second communication device via a multicast channel.

39. (New) In a communications system, a computer-readable medium embodying a method for forming a group communication, said method comprising:
establishing a first channel with a first communication device;
establishing at least one second channel with at least one second communication device;
receiving packet data from said first communication device; and
sending said packet data to the at least one second communication device group.

40. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 39, wherein said establishing steps include:
establishing at least one wireless communication channel.

41. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 39, wherein said method further includes:
maintaining identification information for each of said first communication device and at least one second communication device.

42. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 41, wherein said method further includes:

updating the maintained identification information when the identification information of said first communication device or said at least one second communication device has or is about to change.

43. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 39, wherein said method further includes:

maintaining a history of activity between said first communication device and said at least one second communication device.

44. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 43, wherein said method further includes:

transferring said history of activity to a billing log module.

45. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 39, wherein said receiving includes:

receiving at least one of identification data of first communication device and said at least one second communication device, location data of said first communication device and said at least one second communication device, and control data to establish, modify, or terminate said group communication.

46. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 39, wherein said establishing steps include:

establishing a signal initiation protocol (SIP) channel, a media signaling channel, and a media traffic channel.

47. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 39, wherein said method further includes:

measuring a first elapsed time period during which none of said first communication device and said at least one second communication device has transmitted information; and

sending a message to said first communication device and said at least one second communication device to enter a dormant mode if said elapsed time exceeds a predetermined time period.

48. (New) Computer-readable medium of Claim 47, wherein said method further includes:

measuring a second elapsed time period during which any of said first communication device and said at least one second communication device has not transmitted information; and

sending a message to a communication device that has not transmitted information to elicit a response from said communication device to determine if said communication device wishes to remain an active participant.

49. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 39, wherein said method further includes:

assigning a priority level to each of said first communications device and at least one second communications device such that a communication device having a higher priority level may interrupt another communication device having a lower priority level.

50. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 49, wherein said priority level is dynamically configurable.

51. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 39, wherein said method further includes:

storing said received packet data until said at least one second communication device is ready to receive said packet data.

52. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 39, wherein said method further includes:

sending information to said first communication device regarding said at least one second communication device.

53. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 39, wherein said sending includes:

sending said packet data to said at least one second communication device via a multicast channel.

54. (New) An apparatus for forming a group communication, comprising:
means for establishing a first channel with a first communication device;
means for establishing at least one second channel with at least one second communication device;
means for receiving packet data from said first communication device; and
means for sending said packet data to the at least one second communication device group.

55. (New) The apparatus of Claim 54, wherein said means for establishing include:

means for establishing at least one wireless communication channel.

56. (New) The apparatus of Claim 54, further including:
means for maintaining identification information for each of said first communication device and at least one second communication device.

57. (New) The apparatus of Claim 56, further including:
means for updating the maintained identification information when the identification information of said first communication device or said at least one second communication device has or is about to change.

58. (New) The apparatus of Claim 54, further including:
means for maintaining a history of activity between said first communication device and said at least one second communication device.

59. (New) The apparatus of Claim 58, further including:
means for transferring said history of activity to a billing log module.

60. (New) The apparatus of Claim 54, wherein said means for receiving includes means for receiving at least one of identification data of first communication device and said at least one second communication device, location data of said first communication device and said at least one second communication device, and control data to establish, modify, or terminate said group communication.

61. (New) The apparatus of Claim 54, wherein said means for establishing include:
means for establishing a signal initiation protocol (SIP) channel, a media signaling channel, and a media traffic channel.

62. (New) The apparatus of Claim 54, further including:
means for measuring a first elapsed time period during which none of said first communication device and said at least one second communication device has transmitted information; and
means for sending a message to said first communication device and said at least one second communication device to enter a dormant mode if said elapsed time exceeds a predetermined time period.

63. (New) The apparatus of Claim 62, further including:
means for measuring a second elapsed time period during which none of said first communication device and said at least one second communication device has transmitted information; and

means for sending a message to a communication device that has not transmitted information to elicit a response from said communication device to determine if said communication device wishes to remain an active participant.

64. (New) The apparatus of Claim 54, further including:

means for assigning a priority level to each of said first communications device and at least one second communications device such that a communication device having a higher priority level may interrupt another communication device having a lower priority level.

65. (New) The apparatus of Claim 64 wherein said priority level is dynamically configurable.

66. (New) The apparatus of Claim 54, further including:

means for storing said received packet data until said at least one second communication device is ready to receive said packet data.

67. (New) The apparatus of Claim 54, further including:

means for sending information to said first communication device regarding said at least one second communication device.

68. (New) The apparatus of Claim 54, wherein said means for sending includes:

means for sending said packet data to said at least one second communication device via a multicast channel.

69. (New) An apparatus for forming a group communication, comprising:

a receiver;

a transmitter; and

a processor communicatively coupled to the receiver and the transmitter, the processor being capable of:

establishing a first channel with a first communication device;
establishing at least one second channel with at least one second communication device;
receiving packet data from said first communication device; and
sending said packet data to the at least one second communication device group.

70. (New) The apparatus of Claim 69, wherein said establishing include:
establishing at least one wireless communication channel.

71. (New) The apparatus of Claim 69, the processor further being capable of:
maintaining identification information for each of said first communication device
and at least one second communication device.

72. (New) The apparatus of Claim 71, the processor further being capable of:
updating the maintained identification information when the identification
information of said first communication device or said at least one second
communication device has or is about to change.

73. (New) The apparatus of Claim 69, the processor further being capable of:
maintaining a history of activity between said first communication device and said
at least one second communication device.

74. (New) The apparatus of Claim 73, the processor further being capable of:
transferring said history of activity to a billing log module.

75. (New) The apparatus of Claim 69, wherein said receiving includes:
receiving at least one of identification data of first communication device and said
at least one second communication device, location data of said first communication
device and said at least one second communication device, and control data to establish,
modify, or terminate said group communication.

76. (New) The apparatus of Claim 69, wherein said establishing include:
establishing a signal initiation protocol (SIP) channel, a media signaling channel,
and a media traffic channel.

77. (New) The apparatus of Claim 69, the processor further being capable of:
measuring a first elapsed time period during which none of said first
communication device and said at least one second communication device has
transmitted information; and

sending a message to said first communication device and said at least one second
communication device to enter a dormant mode if said elapsed time exceeds a
predetermined time period.

78. (New) The apparatus of Claim 77, the processor further being capable of:
measuring a second elapsed time period during which none of said first
communication device and said at least one second communication device has
transmitted information; and

sending a message to a communication device that has not transmitted
information to elicit a response from said communication device to determine if said
communication device wishes to remain an active participant.

79. (New) The apparatus of Claim 69, the processor further being capable of:
assigning a priority level to each of said first communications device and at least
one second communications device such that a communication device having a higher
priority level may interrupt another communication device having a lower priority level.

80. (New) The apparatus of Claim 79 wherein said priority level is
dynamically configurable.

81. (New) The apparatus of Claim 69, the processor further being capable of:
storing said received packet data until said at least one second communication
device is ready to receive said packet data.

82. (New) The apparatus of Claim 69, the processor further being capable of:
sending information to said first communication device regarding said at least one
second communication device.

83. (New) The apparatus of Claim 69, the processor further being capable of:
sending said packet data to said at least one second communication device via a
multicast channel.

REMARKS

After entry of the above Preliminary Amendment, new Claims 24-83 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due with this response. If, however, it is determined that fees are owed, please charge any such fees or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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